



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

---

Asked by Mr Johnathon Davis MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 11:

In relation to: Lake Tuggeranong Water Aeration Research

**Mr Rattenbury:** Sorry, Mr Davis, just on that as well. I also do have advice that research has shown that aerating the water will not improve the conditions in Lake Tuggeranong, with regards to blue green algae. So we have had specific—people have looked at these things, and that is the advice that we have from the water team.

**MR DAVIS:** Okay. It might be a question then, more broadly for the water team, would that be evidence that the EPSDD would maybe help constituents who have got a couple of raised eyebrows. Is that something that we would be willing to share with people?

**Mr Rattenbury:** Of course.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In some circumstances, the aeration of lakes with bubblers effectively reduces the supply of nutrients from lake sediments to the water column, where they can be taken up by blue-green algae and promote the growth or 'bloom' of the algae.

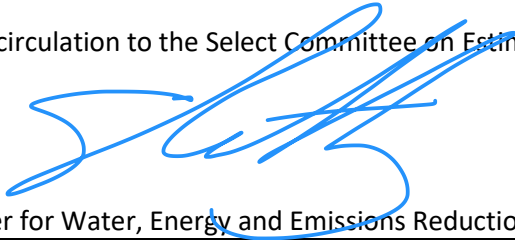
In Lake Tuggeranong, the ACT Government funded research by the University of Canberra that demonstrated blue-green algal blooms are being driven by the influx of nutrients from the catchment, which are annually 4-5 times greater than the flux of nutrients from the lake's sediments. Therefore, aeration of the lake water will do little to diminish algal blooms in Lake Tuggeranong until the supply of nutrients from the catchment can be significantly cut. Identifying and curbing the sources of nutrient pollution in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment is a focus of Stage 2 of the ACT Healthy Waterways program.

The report is publicly available here:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349832467> Title Lake Tuggeranong Research  
[Project Report Stage 3.](#)

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date: 2/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA